Southern Plains Drought Outlook Summary

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Issued: 1100 CST

National Weather Service

Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX

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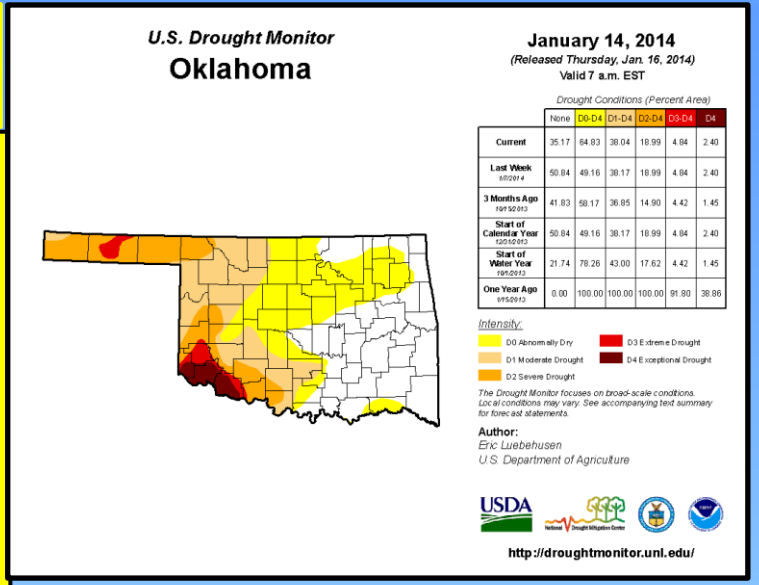
Current Drought Situation

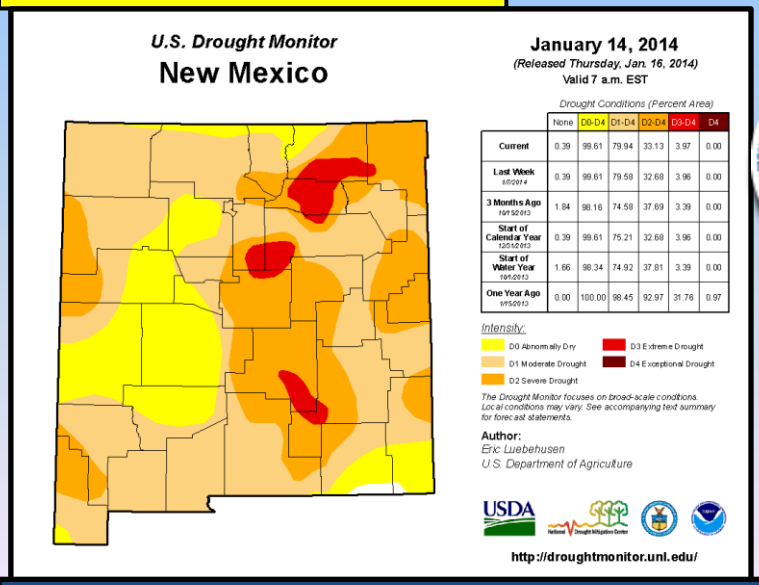
- **Oklahoma** Only 5% of state in extreme drought, down from 92% one year ago
- **New Mexico** Heavy rains (well above normal) in July and September led to drought improvements. Only 4% of state in extreme drought, down from 32% one year ago
- **Texas** Only 7% of state in extreme drought, down from 21% last year. Primary drought concern area is the panhandle into NW TX and also portions of SW TX.



For Southern Plains Drought Monitor go to:
http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home

Current/Ongoing Drought Impacts

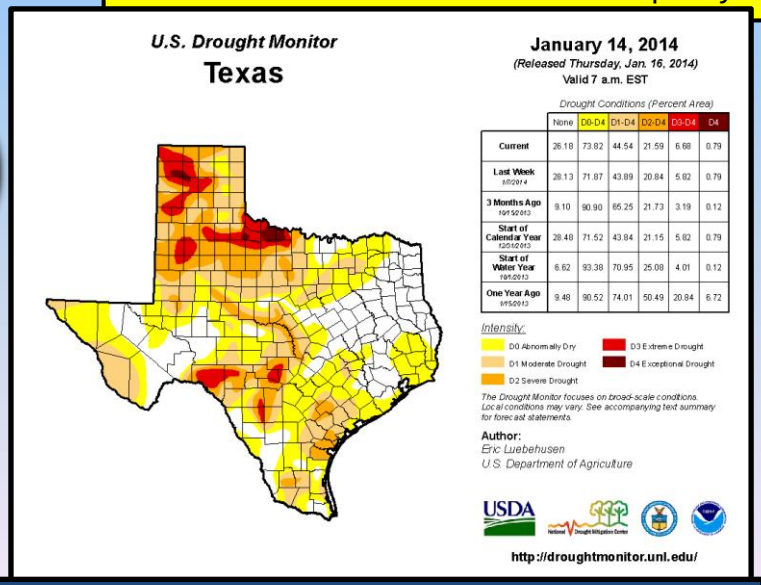
- **New Mexico**: Despite near record September wetness, 3 of the 4 largest reservoirs remain at less than15% of storage capacity. The largest, Elephant Butte, is at only 14% of capacity.
- **Texas**: While short-term drought has improved, long-term (hydrologic) drought remains for the state as a whole. Statewide reservoir capacity is only at 64% of capacity, below the 67% capacity from this time last year. Water releases to rice farmers in jeopardy of being cut off for third straight year. Persistent drought in northwest TX has resulted in the City of Wichita Falls declaring a Drought Disaster.
- **Oklahoma**: Lake Altus in southwest Oklahoma at less than 12% of capacity.



NOAA — National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service

NIDIS — National Integrated Drought Information System



Website: http://www.srh.noaa.gov **Twitter:** @NWS_Southern_US
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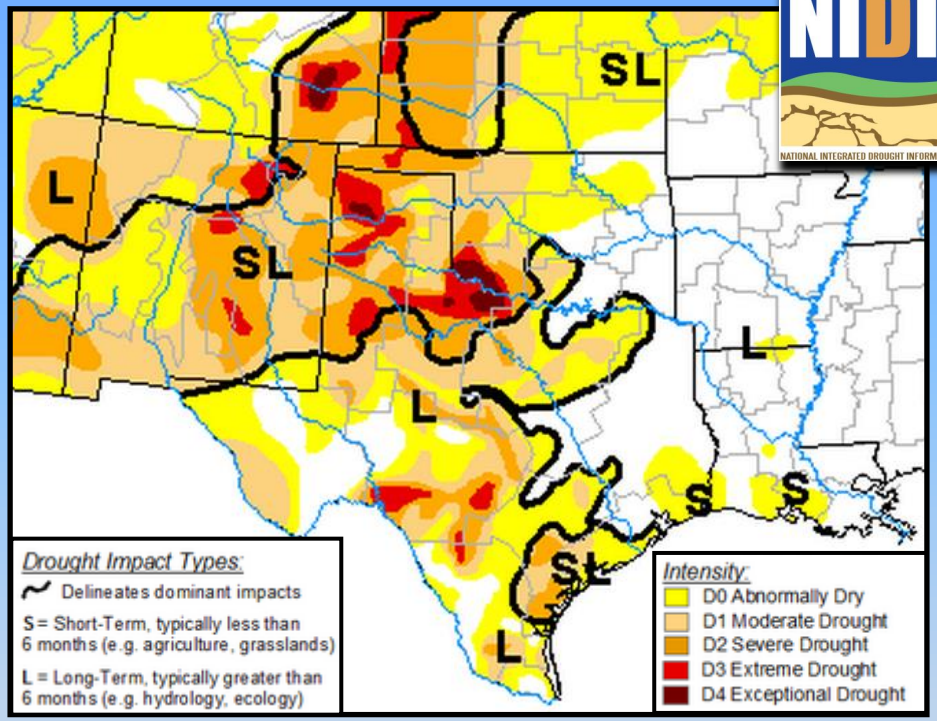
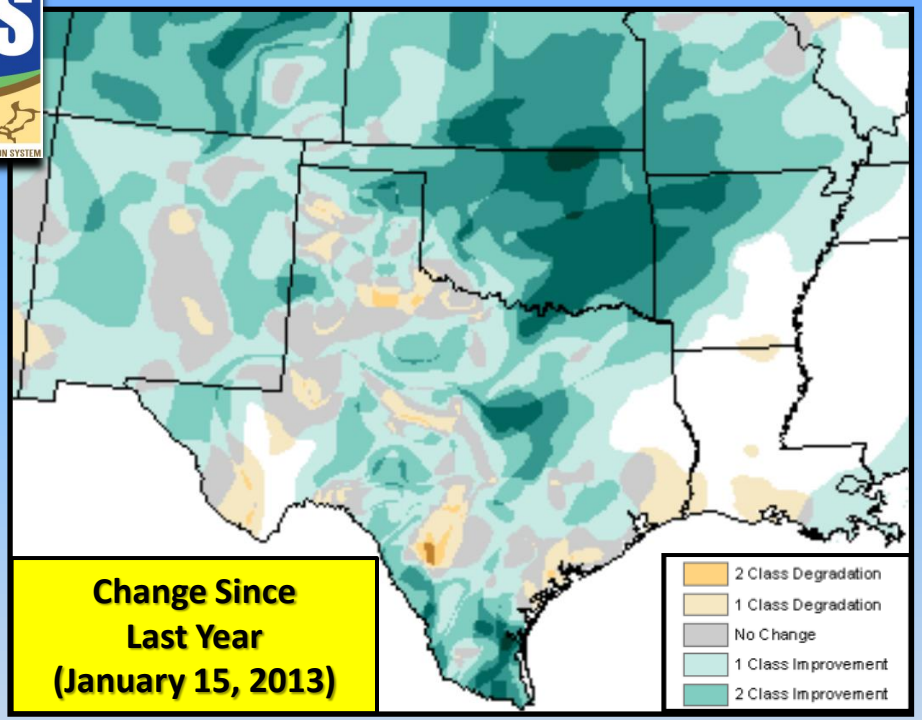
Drought Monitor Released 16 January

Data valid through 6am CT on Tuesday, January 14, 2014



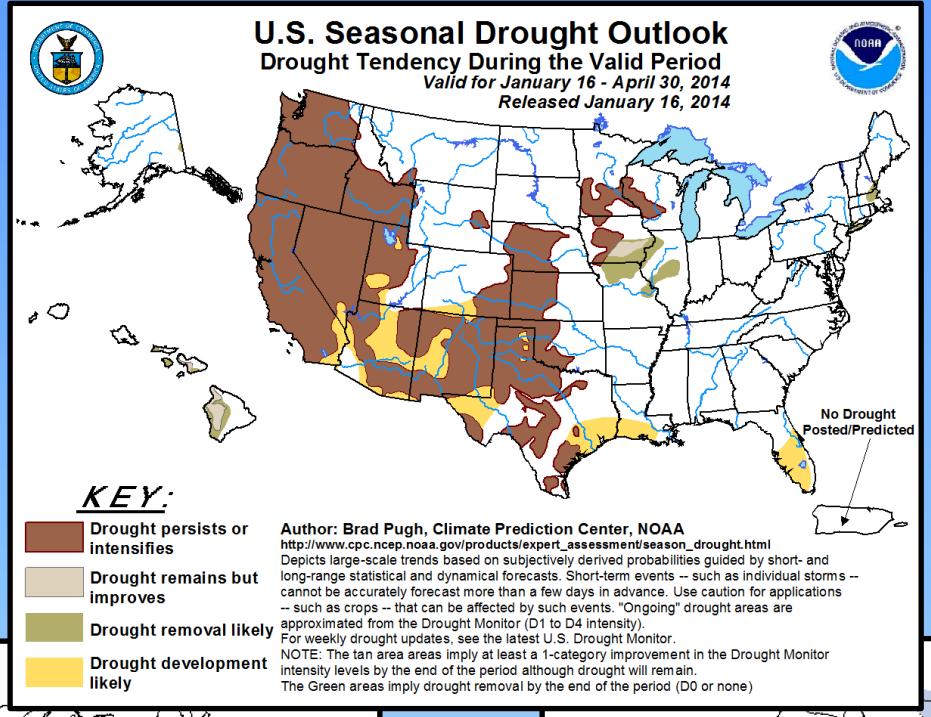


State	Current	Last Week	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Texas	6.68%	5.82%	3.19%	20.84%
Oklahoma	4.84%	4.84%	4.42%	91.80%
New Mexico	3.97%	3.96%	3.39%	31.76%

Drought Conditions (Percent Area) in D3-D4 (Extreme to Exceptional)

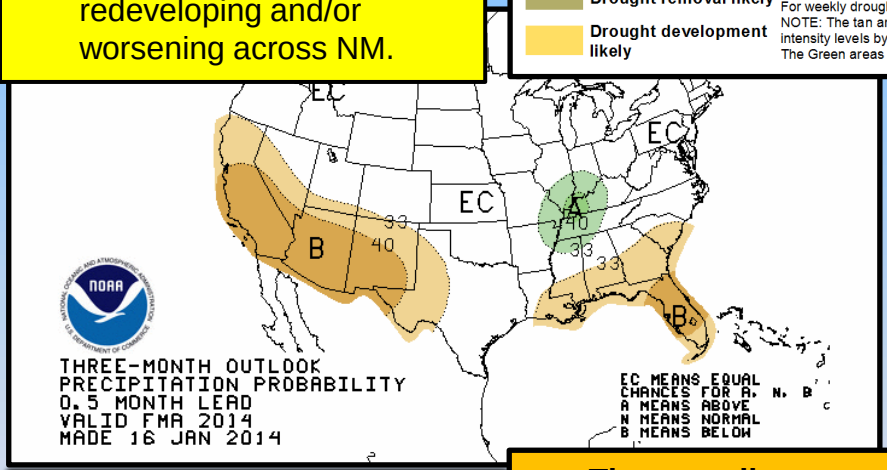
3-month Outlook

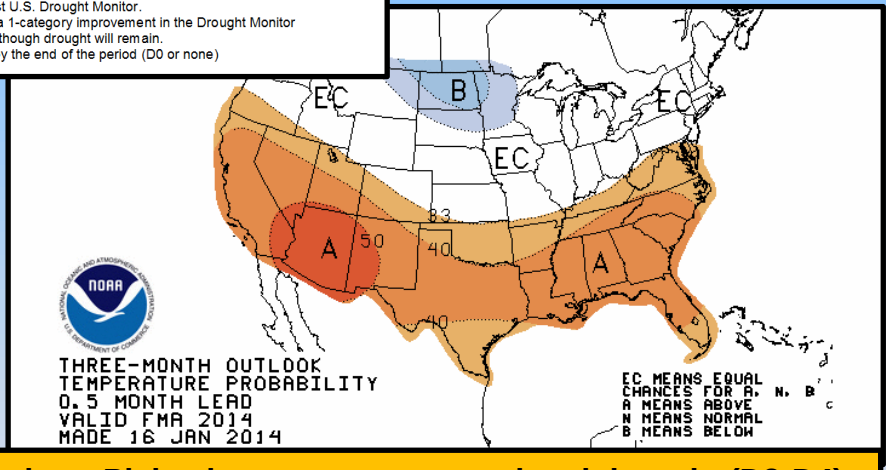
- Increased chances for below normal precipitation expected for southwest NM with equal chances of above, below, or near normal precipitation elsewhere.
- Generally, the winter months are among the driest months of the year in all 3 states, lessening chances for significant drought improvement.
- High probability of drought redeveloping and/or worsening across NM.



3-month Outlook Temperature

- Increased chances for above normal temperatures for all of NM, OK, and TX, except for south TX.
- Increased Evaporation of any rain that does fall is likely with higher temperatures … further exacerbating surface reservoir water deficits.





Southern Plains Drought Summary

- **The overall amount of the Southern Plains in extreme to exceptional drought (D3-D4) is much lower than this time last year.**
- **Drought forecast to redevelop across southeast TX and parts of west TX. Drought to persist or worsen in NM and much of TX/OK panhandles, western OK, west/south TX.**
- **Drought forecast to redevelop across portions of far west TX, and parts of NM that are currently drought free.**

Information provided by:
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This information along with other drought resources also available on the Southern Plains drought.gov web portal

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